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## Spinola disbands movement

OSBON, May 7 (AFP). — The disgraced former president of Portugal, Antonio Spinola, has disbanded his clandestine Democratic Movement for the liberation of Portugal because he believes the country is now a multi-party democracy, it was reported here today.

The conservative daily O Dia said it telephoned Spinola in Rio de Janeiro, where he has lived since fleeing Portugal 14 months ago and where he revealed the creation of the movement last August.

Volume 1, Number 162

## Israelis split West Bank settlement issue

AVIV, May 7 (R). — Israelis today reported to be evenly split over the future of a controversial Jewish settlement on the West Bank of the River Jordan.

The cabinet faced one of its most important decisions in Israel's 17-year history.

Understanding the settlement, a caravan camp near Qadum (Kadum), is illegally occupied by 130 ultra-nationalist settlers.

It was set up as a direct challenge to government policy which forbids Jewish settlement in the occupied areas it deems vital to the nation's defence.

The decision facing the cabinet last weekend meeting is what to do about the settlement.

It has become one of the key issues in Israeli politics and a symptom of the root causes of discontent on the West Bank.

The evening newspaper Aharonot reported in a poll that Israelis were split 41 to 37 in favour of the settlement.

Ultra-nationalist settlers — the Jewish Eshmunim (faith bloc) — are allowed to stay on.

The remainder had no opinion on the matter.

Minister Yitzhak Rabin said today that a compromise would satisfy members of the ultra-nationalist Religious Party (Nativ) partner in the Labour coalition, which supports the settlement.

Nativ said it might walk out of the coalition if the 130 settlers were removed by force.

Another partner in the coalition, the Mapam party, has threatened to quit if the settlers are given backing.

Mapam is organising a big anti-settlement rally tomorrow night.

Some sources said the cabinet would likely decide not to remove the settlers — but to cut off supplies from a nearby camp, inducing them to leave their own accord.

The government also faces opposition from the United States to its settlements in the occupied territories.

Returning to Washington, Kissinger said the settlement issue is now re-examining the attitude towards the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) following recent successes by the PLO.

Continued on page 6



King Hussein, holding his daughter Princess Haya, greets Crown Prince Hassan at Amman airport Friday.

## Prince Hassan returns from 3-nation Gulf tour

AMMAN, (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein received Friday evening at Amman airport Crown Prince Hassan and the accompanying delegation at the end of a Gulf states tour which took them to the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Oman.

Also present at Amman airport to welcome the Crown Prince, were the Prime Minister Mr. Zeid Rifai, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, cabinet members and other high-ranking officials.

During his trip, Prince Hassan briefed the leaders of the countries he visited on the Jordanian five-year development plan and discussed with them the current Arab situation and bilateral relations.

An official statement issued Friday on the visit of Prince Hassan to Oman, from May 5-7, said His Highness had visited there a number of military and

cultural institutions and construction projects. He also visited the town of Salalah, where he was received by His Majesty Sultan Qabus, views were exchanged on Arab issues and bilateral relations.

The statement said that during meetings between the Jordanian and Omani delegations, the two sides emphasised their determination to re-inforce the bases of joint action in all fields, particularly technical, cultural, economic and educational cooperation.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mudar Badran, the Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, stated that delegates from the countries visited will attend the forthcoming development conference which will take place in Amman at the end of this month.

Coordination between Jordan and the countries visited in economic development will take place for the benefit of the Arab world, he added.

## Disagreements highlight UNCTAD meeting

NAIROBI, May 7 (AFP). — Rich and poor countries clashed over commodity problems at the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development continued its general debate today.

In statements in plenary session and in private comments, delegates took highly conflicting views of the speech made by U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger as the debate opened yesterday, and his long catalogue of proposals including a call for the setting up of an international resources bank.

Speeches by leading representatives of the western nations and the Third World demonstrated once again that the underlying issue

at UNCTAD-IV is the conflict between the traditional market economy and the "new international economic order" called for by the developing countries.

West Germany today joined hands with the United States in rejecting the UNCTAD Secretariat's plan for an "integrated commodity programme" built around a common fund designed to finance price stabilisation and stocking arrangements.

West German Economy Minister Hans Friderichs at the same time said the best way to improve international economic structures for the benefit of developing nations was to ensure "steady development and more effective

## Junblatt calls for boycott Lebanese presidential vote faces uncertain fate

BEIRUT, May 7 (Agencies). — The fate of presidential elections scheduled for tomorrow hung in the balance today despite an official parliamentary announcement that the vote would go ahead as planned.

A statement from the speaker's office of the 98-member house confirmed that parliament would meet tomorrow to elect a successor to rightwing President Suleiman Franjeh.

But with the left bitterly opposed to the meeting, already postponed once, there was doubt whether the right would be able to muster the necessary quorum of 66 deputies.

Leftwing parties tonight called for a general strike and demonstrations in protest against tomorrow's election.

Observers said that if the strike call for tomorrow was heeded, shops and services in Moslem areas of Lebanon, where the left primarily draws its support, would shut down.

This would constitute no threat in itself to the parliamentary meeting to elect the new president.

But the strike could possibly be coupled with demonstrations which might hamper deputies reaching the temporary parliament building where the chamber is due to meet at 11 a.m., observers said.

The parliamentary group headed by Kamal Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese left, also announced today that it would boycott the scheduled election.

The group, the "National Struggle Front," consists of eight deputies, and for the parliamentary

session to be held it is necessary for two-thirds — or 66 — of the 98 deputies to be present.

Interior Minister Camille Chamoun, head of the mainly Christian conservative National Liberal Party, said he will vote tomorrow if security conditions permit.

But he kept up the mystery over which candidate his dozen followers in parliament will support.

A curfew was put into effect this afternoon around the battlefront meeting point where members of parliament will attempt to muster the two-thirds quorum to hold the crucial election.

Two thousand Lebanese soldiers will be on guard within a radius of 500 metres of the house where parliament will convene. Eastern approaches to this area will be guarded by militia of the conservative, mainly Christian, Phalangist political party.

Western approaches will be guarded by the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA).

Phalangist Leader Pierre Gemayel broadcast a warning today against sabotaging the election.

Another resurgence of hostilities would provoke "an explosion in the region that no Arab country will be able to escape."

The thin PLA buffer force between the hostile lines splitting this capital has brought a 48-hour lull. The Palestinian regulars were more a symbolic force than a real deterrent.

Tension rose briefly as shots were exchanged here again this afternoon after a quiet morning.

Clashes were also reported in the mountains to the east and between the Beirut suburbs of Chiah and Ain Rummaneh.

But Beirut generally enjoyed a third day of relative peace. Unconfirmed reports from the left said the right was building up its forces in the mountains outside Beirut in preparation for battle.

The left has accused Syria of exerting political and military pressure to secure the election of Central Bank Governor Elias Sarkis.

Mr. Sarkis, 52, also enjoys the support of the right, and Lebanese political observers have predicted that he would beat the left's candidate, veteran politician Raymond Edde, 63, if the vote were held tomorrow.

The dispute over the date has essentially become a battle of wills between Kamal Junblatt and the Syrian leadership.

Mr. Yasser Arafat, leader of the PLO went on one of his periodic shuttle trips to Damascus yesterday with Shiite Moslem leader Imam Moussa Sadr, and returned midday today Beirut radio reported.

Together they met President Assad for over six hours.

Imam Sadr said President Assad had affirmed he considered the election of a new president would mark the beginning of an improvement of the situation and reconstruction in Lebanon.

According to political observers here, the left would be likely to resort to arms if Mr. Sarkis were elected, while lack of a quorum for tomorrow's meeting could trigger a violent rightwing reaction.

The leftists insist that the next president should put their 17-point reform plan into effect, but conservatives reject some of those points.

Conservatives refuse to examine reforms until order is restored, whereas leftists warn they will not lay down their weapons until their programme has been accepted.

In an attempt to break this deadlock, independent MP's led by Speaker of Parliament Kamel As'ad said they might propose a compromise candidate late tonight.

Boycott requests are heeded by U.S. companies

WASHINGTON, May 7 (R). — Almost every American company requested to do so by Arab interests joined in a trade boycott against Israel over a nine-week period last year, congressional investigators reported today.

They said a preliminary investigation of secret Commerce Department documents revealed that 91 per cent of American exporters went along with the boycott request between October 1 and December 5 last year.

Only two per cent of the companies refused to comply and the remaining seven per cent were either undecided or declined to disclose their decision to the department, investigators said.

The initial findings were disclosed by Congressman John Moss, Chairman of the House of Representatives foreign commerce subcommittee on investigations, in a letter to the House of Representatives international relations committee.

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## Breakfasts with Giscard

## Kissinger concludes tour with talks in Paris

May 7 (AFP). — United States Secretary of State Henry Kissinger capped a two-week tour in Africa today with talks here with President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

Returning to Washington, he and Mr. Giscard d'Estaing agreed that Africa must be free from all foreign interference.

Kissinger, who addressed a Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD-IV) in Paris yesterday, said "the development of Africa and the realisation of its aspirations should be the concern of all western nations who have an interest in helping."

He and the Ivory Coast leader, who completed a five-day official visit to France today, also exchanged views on African development and independence.

Kissinger said after an 80-minute breakfast with Mr. Giscard that the French President listened with "considerable interest" to his views on setting up a 100 million resources bank for developing nations.

The proposal, outlined at the Nairobi conference, was criticised by French Minister Jean-Pierre Four-



BRIEFING MEETING. — French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing at the Elysee Palace receives American Secretary of State Henry Kissinger who briefed him on his African tour. (AP wirephoto).

troops to Lebanon, he replied that the problem was discussed in general terms. The specific intentions of individual countries could be raised at later meetings, he said.

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing is due to start a four-day visit to the United States on May 17 and Mr. Kissinger told newsmen "the United States attaches very great importance" to the visit.

French-American relations "have never been better," he said, adding that he attached "the greatest importance" to the views of the President on Africa.

Stressing the importance of African states making their own development plans, he told journalists at Orly airport "I have indicated the support of the USA for their efforts and of course there are many European nations with traditional roles and links to Africa." These countries will "make their own decisions with respect to the role that they will play," he said.

Also present at the breakfast talks in the Elysee Palace were the American ambassador, Kenneth Rush, and French Foreign Minister.

Continued on page 6

## Thousands left homeless in devastating Italian quake

UDINE, Italy, May 7 (AFP). — The death toll in last night's earthquake in northeast Italy reached 293 tonight and was climbing by the hour as rescue workers dug through the ruins of outlying villages.

More than 1,000 people were injured by the quake in Italy, some 200 of those seriously. The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported today that 30 people were injured in the Tolmin and Nova Gorica regions of Yugoslavia, near the Italian border.

In New York, a U.N. spokesman said that United Nations relief officials have received information indicating the death toll would probably exceed 300.

The spokesman said the estimate was received from the U.N. disaster relief office in Geneva.

Rescue workers reported here that they had reached all villages hit by the quake early this afternoon, in spite of difficulties in communications and transportation.

An airlift involving 20 helicopters was established to evacuate the seriously injured to the major hospitals of Northern Italy.

500 trucks were being used to transport the homeless and rescue equipment, but authorities said

of Italian authorities to aid in the rescue operation.

Among the ruins of towns and villages, tens of thousands of survivors waited today, homeless or seeking missing relatives.

Many were alarmed by a series of after shocks — 23 of them during the night — that followed the major earthquake which struck at about 20:00 GMT. Those tremours ceased in the afternoon.

WANDERING AMIDST DEBRIS. — Italian woman and her dog wander amidst debris of a house at Buia, one of the villages that suffered the worst damage in the earthquake that hit Italy Thursday night. (AP wirephoto).



WANDERING AMIDST DEBRIS. — Italian woman and her dog wander amidst debris of a house at Buia, one of the villages that suffered the worst damage in the earthquake that hit Italy Thursday night. (AP wirephoto).

Pietro Caloi, one of Italy's leading seismologists, declared today: "This region was once very active in earthquakes, but since 1929 it appeared to have stabilised."

The leaning tower of Pisa shook several times last night as a result of the quakes, it was announced. Equipment that is used to constantly monitor the degree of inclination of the famous tower

showed that it had swayed slightly six times during the night, but later returned to its customary slant.

President Leone toured the earthquake zone by helicopter, landing at Majano where he spoke with many of the homeless.

When he came to the town hospital to see the injured, the President was moved to tears.

One woman who is likely to have a leg amputated told him: "I don't mind about the leg, but I must be able to get back to my children."

Another said: "I have four children at home, but I don't know if they are still alive."

The President buried his head in his hands and wept.

A report from Majano: see page 3.

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## Oranges & bombs

The element of directionlessness in the Israeli national character is not always prominent, but it has been during the Security Council debate in New York this week. The emergency debate was called for by Egypt, on the altogether logical reasoning that the Security Council is a body designed to debate, avert or rectify conflict situations where the security of nations or people are abused. The occupied Arab territories are just this kind of situation, and the rising Arab death toll coupled with the persistent shows of Arab resistance would tend to make one realise that something is not right with the situation on the West Bank.

The Arab viewpoint is that the problem in the occupied territories is the very occupation itself. The Israelis claim the occupation is of the humane sort, a bit of sophistry they like to spruce up by pointing to the fact that they allowed the Arabs to hold municipal elections there last month.

The pertinent point is that if the Security Council is in fact convened to discuss the situation on the West Bank, it would be appropriate for Israel to discuss the situation on the West Bank. This is the time and place for Israel to spell out why it thinks its occupation is of the variety that the world should tolerate, if this is what Israel indeed thinks.

Instead, the Israeli ambassador at the United Nations has spent his time talking about why he thinks Egypt was motivated to call for the meeting in the first place. He has given the world a series of irrelevant commentaries on themes of tangential importance, while the world sits around waiting to hear Israel's view on the West Bank situation.

No doubt, if a Security Council meeting were called to discuss the reasons why Egypt calls Security Council meetings, Israel would come forth with a detailed list of its humane acts in the West Bank and other occupied Arab lands.

We have pointed out before that a cardinal principle of Israeli diplomacy is to avoid at all costs talking about the fundamental conflict in the Middle East, which is the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis over the land called Palestine.

The manifestation of this Israeli principle is something akin to wanderings in the international diplomatic forest. When the other nations of the world sit down to talk about apples, the Israelis bring a crate of oranges. When the world agrees to discuss oranges, the Israelis start talking about bananas. If the world throws up its hands in despair and asks the Israelis what kind of fruits they would like to discuss, the Israeli reply would inevitably be that they never agreed to discuss fruits in the first place, but that they might agree to discuss, say, green vegetables.

The result of this phenomenon is the state of directionlessness which Israel has so lucidly shown once again is one of its primary characteristics. It is a waste of time, for example, to try and bring Israel to the Geneva conference to talk peace with the Arabs, because Israel says it will only go to Geneva if the PLO is not invited. If this were agreed to, Israel would then probably say that Montreux or Zurich are better places to meet than Geneva. If this in turn were agreed to, Israel would probably say that Mexico is more conducive to peace talks than Switzerland. And so on and so forth.

This is how Israel operates, and it would be silly to try and bring about peace talks or disengagement agreements without first having some firm confirmation from the Israelis themselves that they are ready to leave the evasive tactics at home and step forth with a genuine, sincere willingness to talk peace.

The Israeli reply to this is that the obstacle to peace in the Middle East is the Arabs' unwillingness to recognise the reality of Israel, or the reality of an Israeli state in Palestine.

The only way these positions will ever be reconciled is for both the Arabs and the Israelis to face up to the full dimensions of their conflict and hammer out a solution that has elements of compromise and justice. This will be done only by discussing the particulars of the dispute between Israel and the Arab states. This means that it is a grand waste of time and a show of moral delinquency for the Israeli ambassador at the United Nations to come to a debate about Israeli practices in the occupied territories and talk about what he thinks are the reasons for Egypt's calling for the debate. If this is all Israel will contribute, it should not be surprised that the reply is another bomb in the heart of Jerusalem. This is the only language Israel understands.

## ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

In a long article, Al Shaab Friday referred to Jordan's representative at the United Nations Abdul Hamid Sharaf's assertion in the Security Council's debate over the West Bank disturbances that the uprising will persist despite all obstacles and challenges until the occupation ends completely. It says the fact that the Security Council was called twice within a few months to consider the situation in the occupied areas was proof that the Arab population there was becoming more and more oppressed and had to rise up against repeated practices by Israel, which continues to disregard the Security Council's resolutions.

Without mentioning the United States by name, the paper says: "In view of these aggressive manifestations on our land, we are compelled to point out that the support given to Israel by a certain country seems to take the form of an open and permanent call for continuous aggression against our nation, our homeland and our future."

With the present manoeuvres still dragging over the choice of a new Lebanese president, Al-Dustour expresses doubt whether a president would be elected by Parliament in its session Saturday. The paper is even doubtful whether Parliament will meet at all. But if the miracle happens and a president is elected, the Lebanese people, the paper says, should rally around the new head of state and help him to 'dress' the wounds and re-institute a new Lebanon. The paper warns that any faction rejecting the result of voting — which is a real parliamentary, democratic procedure — will be precipitating a relapse with all its horrible and fatal consequences.

Under the heading "A Call for Permanent Aggression" Al Rai Friday enumerated the many kinds of American arms supplied to Israel since the October 1973 war. It says these sophisticated weapons, worth billions, have enabled Israel to show more stubbornness and to insist on the continuation of its occupation of



## Teacher training centres grapple with quality of education



A teacher observes the progress of a lesson from the back of the classroom.

By Cliff Bale

Special to the Jordan Times

The teaching of the nation's children is one of the most important tasks for a country on the path of development, and the provision of qualified teachers to meet these needs is equally vital. Jordan is well on its way to providing an adequate number of teachers, but the quality of teaching remains a problem.

It is estimated that Jordan's schools need about 1200 new teachers each year, and to meet the need several teachers' training establishments have been created, some governmental institutes and others private.

The Ministry of Education has created several teachers' training institutes in Jordan. The oldest, and perhaps most prestigious, is the Amman Institute, which started offering courses at its present site in 1954, although the first such teaching took place in other premises in 1951.

Set in a small wooded area in Jabal Hussein, it now provides courses for about 550 male students, 300 in the first year and 255 in the second.

The increase in the present year's enrolment is due to the addition of new courses for the first time. There are the "traditional" subjects such as maths and science, as well as English language teaching, physical education and elementary education—but this year Arabic, religion, arts and music have been added. Music is an innovation, and is viewed as an experimental course for its 18 students.

The courses last two years in all, and are divided into three main areas of study: general knowledge, education courses and subject matter courses.

Of course, the training includes a large amount of practical experience in schools, starting off solely as observation, and leading to a period of intensive teaching during the final semester.

According to Mr. Ahmad Tawil, principal of the Institute, this is the most difficult period for the students, as they have to relate educational theory to practice. In addition they face the problem of lack of supervision from teachers in the schools which they do their

practice. But this practice is essential if they are to obtain their diploma, which about 75 per cent of the students do.

This establishment, of course, is not the only one in the country, although the others are fairly recent, built in order to take the strain off the Amman Institute. The Huwara Institute in Irbid, with about 600 students, is the only other centre exclusively for male students. There are two institutes for women: the Princess Alla Institute in Amman (with 400 first year students) and the Ajlun Teachers' Institute for women (with 348). Demand for qualified women teachers is especially great, as there is a very high proportion of women teachers without any teaching qualification.

In addition, the Teachers' Institute in Salt has just been opened this year, and unlike the others, is co-educational. It has taken in 380 men and women for its first year.

This leaves a large gap in the South, which at the moment the Amman Institute has to fill, but an institute is planned for Kerak. Work is to be started this year under the Five-Year Plan, and the new co-educational college should be ready in three years' time, providing places for about 400 students.

There are other sources of teachers in Jordan, such as the university, which in co-operation with the Ministry, provides teachers for the secondary schools. The Arab College also provided about 800 students a year for the compulsory cycle.

In addition, private establishments such as the Literary Teachers' Training Institute, with about 650 students, and the UN-WRA Centre, a co-educational institute for about 350 students per year, also play an important role.

One serious problem, which the Ministry of Education has to face, is the exodus of qualified teachers to the Gulf states in search of quick money, for in Jordan, a teacher who has just graduated at an institute may only earn JD 40-50 per month, and may be teaching in a school where classes total about 40 children and facilities are inadequate.

One way of solving this problem is to tie students to a contract with the Ministry, so that they stay in Jordan for a certain

## The New London Ballet -- A review the Gala performance

By Heather Crawford  
 in collaboration with  
 Mrs. Betty Hijazi  
 Special to the Jordan Times

The performance of the New London Ballet at the Palace of Culture on May 6th, was indeed a Gala night, providing a rare opportunity for ballet lovers, and newcomers alike, to sample the wide variety of skills and moods for which the company is renowned. For those who missed this performance, and those who would like to see it all again, a repeat public show is being held this evening, May 8th, at 8 pm at the Palace of Culture.

Modern, dramatic and traditional ballet were, incorporated in the programme, thus satisfying all tastes. The evening began with Soft Blue Shadows, a new modern ballet, specially created for the company by Andre Prokovsky. The choreography was superb, as was the dancing, especially that of Galina Samsova, whose fluidity of movement was quite breathtaking. However, the concept of the ballet was perhaps not quite suitable for a touring company playing to a foreign audience unable to pay regular vi-

sits to the ballet. Maybe a little more consideration of the nature of the audience, with an opening performance of a more classical type would have been more readily appreciated. The idea of a vocal accompaniment is also one which probably only an experienced audience would fully appreciate. For those who know their ballet, Soft Blue Shadows, was however a memorable experience.

Othello, with its strong dramatic impact and excellent acting, really communicates itself to the audience. This was the first creation commissioned by the company with choreography by Peter Darrell, one of the most experienced and original choreographers in British ballet today. He excels at this type of dance drama and in Othello, drama is more to the fore than dancing. The plot and the essence of the tragedy were made immediately obvious by the clearly defined and beautifully executed characterisations.

Vesperi, again with choreography by Andre Prokovsky and accompanied by the music of Verdi, was what everyone had been waiting for. This series of dances must be what most people consi-

der ballet to be about — a fitting finale to the

Vesperi is a ballet created by the respective of the dancers in the company for special mention: excelled at his own. The quick, neat footwork of Ruffique was quite as was the elevation of Beare. The Russian in Samsova was obvious: all technique displayed

The members of the ballet themselves were delighted the way they were Jordan and the help backstage with dressers and the like all tried. It is consideration these that make all the difference to the comfort of a were very impressed with the floor, tre, an obvious necessity, though rather than the impressors 'with them' all the while that essential rapport.

It is small touring like the New London in number) who make for thousands of people the world, otherwise see ballet, to enjoy a excellent evening's or Their dedication and ard of performance caused highly enough.

Their next tour to South America and it is to wish them every success.

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## ILO official arrives for talks on information

AMMAN. — The Arab regional information director at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Shukri Dajani, arrived here Tuesday for a five-day visit to discuss with information officials means to increase cooperation between Jordan and ILO in this information.

The visit is part of the new co-operation policy which the ILO has adopted vis-a-vis the Arab World following its recent designation of Arabic as an official language of the ILO.

This new step has enabled the ILO to increase its information role in the Arab World issuing quarterly magazines and periodicals in Arabic on many labour and employment problems of the region.

These studies, which previously could not be extensively used by Arab countries owing to the language barrier, are expected now to be put to more use.

## Boutagy of Marka Announces

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## Israel to have 100 Lance missiles, 300 by 1980

ON May 6, (AFP — arms sources with the help of the oil-producing countries by buying from the West and setting up its own armaments industry.

It went on: "The shift from exclusively Soviet equipment to a more diversified pattern would mean an Egypt would not be in a position to wage a protracted campaign against Israel in the near future."

Israel would shortly possess about 100 U.S.-built Lance surface missiles and would have a further 200 by the end of the decade, it said.

The Israelis were also counting on obtaining 25 F-15 Eagle fighters, laser bombs, electro-optical arms and sophisticated electronic equipment, according to the report.

On the Arab side, the Soviet Union was still supplying Iraq and Syria with Mig-23 fighters and Syria with Scud missiles, by Syrian forces were not of the same standard as those of Israel, the survey added.

It noted that Egypt had already negotiated to buy 44 Mirage F-1 fighter planes from France and had made significant progress in talks with Britain on the purchase of surface-to-surface missiles, 200 Jaguar fighters and a number of Hawk trainer aircraft.

Iraq's opening of the door towards the West was counterbalanced by Kuwait's softening towards the Soviet Union, and Iran's efforts to make the Gulf an independent power centre had not yet been successful, the institute said, mainly because of Arab scepticism about Iranian intentions.

The survey gave a breakdown of the relative strengths of Israel, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Jordan, which showed that the combined armies of the four Arab states totalled 620,000 men.

But the institute added that Israel's troop strength could be increased from 135,000 to 375,000 men in the event of mobilisation, and Egypt and Syria had large reserves.

Israel has one tank for every two of its neighbours, and has about a third as many tactical aircraft.

Speaking in Majano, one of the villages hardest hit by the quake which struck the Udine area last night, a senior police officer in charge of rescue operations said the death toll would probably rise to more than 300.

He could give no estimate of the injured, but said the damage would run into tens of thousands of millions of lire (millions sterling). Most houses in the area have been evacuated for fears of more tremors.

In Majano, about 25 kilometres north of Udine, 4,500 people are homeless, while at nearby Gemona 7,000 people have lost their homes.

Reuter correspondent Christopher Mathews visited Majano and sent in the following dispatch:

The first sign as you come into town says "Majano" and invites motorists to observe a 50 kilometre per hour speed limit and refrain from honking.

It's one of the few man-made things still standing here.

Majano, a hamlet of 4,500 people, looks as though it has been the target of an intensive artillery barrage.

Three-quarters of the village was razed to the ground in east night's earthquake and the remainder looks on the verge of collapse.

"You can say everyone here is homeless," the police captain in charge said.

No one has got around to making a precise count of the dead yet but at least 130 people are said to have been pulled out from under the rubble either dead or injured.

A road-side restaurant one kilometre from Majano collapsed during a big party. Firemen have already recovered 10 dead and six injured and they are still searching the wreckage.

Majano, which was a prosperous village nestled in lush farmland with the snow-capped Dolomites as a backdrop, is one of 19 towns and villages struck by one of the worst earthquake disasters to hit Italy in living memory.

Houses, decapitated or dismembered, spewing forth the pathetic remains of what was once a home or a job, line the main road of the hamlet, in what has become a vale of death.

The toll is probably over 300 dead according to police and no one can say yet how many injured there are.

Disaster is usually full of ironies and this is no exception. Surrounded by collapsed houses, the memorial next to Majano's village church, itself a heap of rubble, states "Majano, to its Fallen."

The local general store has been completely spared and electrical goods and other consumer durables are incongruous behind the unbroken plate glass on the scene of desolation.

The belfry of the little St. Peter and Paul Church has collapsed and the great bronze bell rests amid a heap of stone blocks.

People say the noise it made when it crashed to the ground was more frightening than the roar of the earthquake itself.

A two-storey trattoria has dissolved into rubble. On a stone table 10 metres away, six glasses and a bottle stand unbroken in memory of the interrupted get-together.

The people, camping in the fields under beach umbrellas or tents hastily improvised from bed-



RESCUERS AT WORK. — A rescue team of Italian army soldiers around a roof of 5-storey building that collapsed in Majano after the heavy earthquake Thursday night.

## Death toll on north Italy quake over 300

MAJANO, Italy, May 7. (R) — More than 300 people are feared dead, and thousands have been made homeless, by an earthquake in north east Italy.

Speaking in Majano, one of the villages hardest hit by the quake which struck the Udine area last night, a senior police officer in charge of rescue operations said the death toll would probably rise to more than 300.

He could give no estimate of the injured, but said the damage would run into tens of thousands of millions of lire (millions sterling). Most houses in the area have been evacuated for fears of more tremors.

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The people, camping in the fields under beach umbrellas or tents hastily improvised from bed-

sheets and motor cars, are curiously euphoric. One man laughed as he surveyed the wreckage of what was once his home.

"Well," he said, "there's no point in crying, is there?"

Another woman, her house and dressmaker's business gone down in ruins, said "None of us has really understood what has happened. We're strangely light-hearted, maybe a little hysterical."

AT WORK. — Three Italian soldiers of a rescue team pass by the body of a victim of the quake that heavily hit Northern Italy Thursday night. (AP wirephoto).

## Kissinger pursues more enlightened Africa policy

WASHINGTON, May 7 (AFP). — The US is now ready to throw the whole weight of its economic power into stopping the spread of Communist power in Africa before it is too late.

This is the clear message that emerged from Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's 13-day swing through the black continent — a long-neglected area of U.S. foreign policy.

Mr. Kissinger minced no words about Washington's determination not to allow a Cuban armed intervention in Rhodesia. After Angola the U.S. does not want any new upset in the world power balance.

But identifying with black Africa's crusade against white minority regimes he spoke out fiercely in his speeches in Nairobi and Dakar against racism.

Is speculative demand behind French recovery?

PARIS, May 7 (AFP). — The French business recovery is still very hesitant, according to the business daily Les Echos, which today published its latest sector-by-sector survey.

It summed up the situation with the headline: "The First Symptoms of Speculative Demand Mask the Deep Hesitations in the Market."

It quoted government statisticians as forecasting a growth rate of about 13 per cent until mid-year, followed by a much lower rate of four or five per cent thereafter.

Les Echos added: "Apart from the very positive trend in the motor sector, the stagnation in consumption was confirmed in April, particularly in electrical appliances."

"Construction was very disappointing. The capital equipment industry is worried about the drop in orders since January and the degradation of its export level."

The paper said: "The rise in prices due to the need to restore profit margins in many sectors is starting to trigger speculative demand. This leads to the question whether speculation is not one of the major components in the present recovery phenomenon."

There is ground to be suspicious of Mr. Kissinger's motivation if only for the reason that the U.S. has neglected Africa for so long. As to the promises of aid, Africans will have to wait for the results of the U.S. presidential elections to see whether they will be kept or not.

Without promising military aid to nationalist groups, Mr. Kissinger went as far as the U.S. was prepared to go to prove its good faith towards African aspirations.

Mr. Kissinger's ten-point charter of U.S. African policy spelled out in Lusaka proclaimed Washington's complete opposition to continued white domination in Rhodesia.

Furthermore, the U.S. would be prepared to offer its good offices in seeking a negotiated settlement in Rhodesia and Kissinger promised the Ford administration would seek the revocation of the much criticised Byrd amendment allowing the U.S. to continue importing Rhodesian chrome ore in defiance of sanctions.

The U.S. will triple its aid to equatorial Africa and Mozambique will get 12.5 million dollars to compensate it for losses incurred by closing its border with Rhodesia.

Using economic carrots instead, the Secretary announced in Dakar, a major U.S.-spearheaded plan to revitalise the drought-afflicted countries of Africa's Sahel region.

And in a spectacular overture to the whole Third World, Mr. Kissinger announced to the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Nairobi a programme of world economic reform based firmly on the market economy.

It is too soon to say how far African states have been won over by Mr. Kissinger's pledges. He was warmly welcomed, though all the countries he visited — Kenya, Zambia, Zaire, Liberia, Senegal and Tanzania — are, with the exception of the latter, old friends of Washington.

The decision by Nigeria followed by Ghana not to receive Mr. Kissinger need not however be taken as reflecting the feelings of the continent as a whole.

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## Senate irate over U.S. Indian Ocean policy

By William Scally

WASHINGTON, May 7 (R). — Leading Democratic senators have called for a six-month halt to construction at a controversial naval base in the Indian Ocean as a new dispute flared over administration policy in the region.

The dispute centred on charges by former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia that the Ford administration had ignored a Saudi Arabian offer last year to finance U.S. aid to the east African nation of Somalia, where the Pentagon says Moscow has built naval bases.

Yesterday Iowa Democratic Senator John Culver, long an opponent of any base on the British-owned island of Diego Garcia, proposed a six-month suspension of work on the island while the charges were investigated.

Mr. James Akins, the former envoy to Riyadh, told a congressional hearing on Tuesday that the proposal from the Saudis, who have often expressed concern over Soviet intentions in the area, was ignored because the administration was seeking congressional approval for the Diego Garcia plans.

U.S. officials have cited what they called a Soviet naval presence in Somalia as a prime reason for the proposed expansion of the base.

The State Department declined comment on Mr. Akins' charges.

Senator Culver told the Senate yesterday the disclosure of the Saudi offer was "only the most recent revelation in this Indian Ocean drama of determined military expansionism, deception, cover-up and flat refusal to do so much as try negotiations and other non-military means to achieve mutual arms restraint."

Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield in an angry speech accused the administration of using cold war scare tactics to gain congressional assent for Diego Garcia, and said the Senate may have voted against expanding the base if it had known of the offer.

Plans to develop the base were temporarily held up last year by an amendment, sponsored by Mr. Culver, blocking nearly \$14 million earmarked for the project until talks were held with Moscow on limiting forces in the Indian Ocean.

But last month the State Department effectively freed the

## China no longer fears Soviet nuclear strike

ON May 6, (AFP — ion's, the report went on. Only six of the 160 Chinese army divisions are armoured and the quality of tanks is well below that of the Soviet Army.

Chinese artillery is obsolete and, the institute said, China lacks modern anti-aircraft tanks, helicopters, engineering equipment and electronic means of support.

The importance of improving the conventional forces "coincided in 1975 with the growing acceptance of the view that the optimal time for a pre-emptive Soviet strike on China's nuclear production facilities and launchers had passed, given their recent dispersal in western China," the report said.

China's air force essentially comprises planes built on obsolete Soviet plans. There is a small number of copies of the Mig-19, but China lacks the ability to keep them in the air constantly. The navy is grossly inferior to the Soviet Union's particularly where anti-submarine units are involved, report said.

The institute reported that China has 50 medium-range (up to 700 miles) missiles and 30 intermediate-range missiles (up to 1,750 miles).

It said the Chinese intercontinental ballistic missile programme threatening the West, appeared to have been slowed down.

China's armed forces are inferior to the Soviet Union's, the report went on. Only six of the 160 Chinese army divisions are armoured and the quality of tanks is well below that of the Soviet Army.

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## Central bank governors to discuss Europe's chaotic markets

BASLE, May 7 (AFP) — Central Bank governors meeting here Monday and Tuesday will again try to get some order into the western world's monetary system after a month of "chaotic markets."

### Lebanese gets free holiday

KATRINEHOLM, Sweden, May 7 (R). — A Lebanese tourist who was mistaken for a refugee when he arrived here spent a comfortable two weeks at a Swedish Welfare centre before the mistake was realised.

Officials said the man, a Lebanese Assyrian here to visit his brother, was assumed to be a refugee when he arrived from Beirut with a party of genuine Assyrian refugees.

He was taken to a reception centre here east of Stockholm where he received free food and lodging, had dental and medical checkups, and was given pocket money.

When he asked permission to visit his brother it was always granted.

However officials were puzzled at his request to leave Sweden, until he produced his ticket back to Beirut.

He returned to Lebanon last week.

informed sources said here today. They said the central bankers will be on the horns of a dilemma. They could opt for measures like those taken by Italy to curb imports, which would restore order fairly quickly. On the other hand the free movement of capital and goods must be maintained.

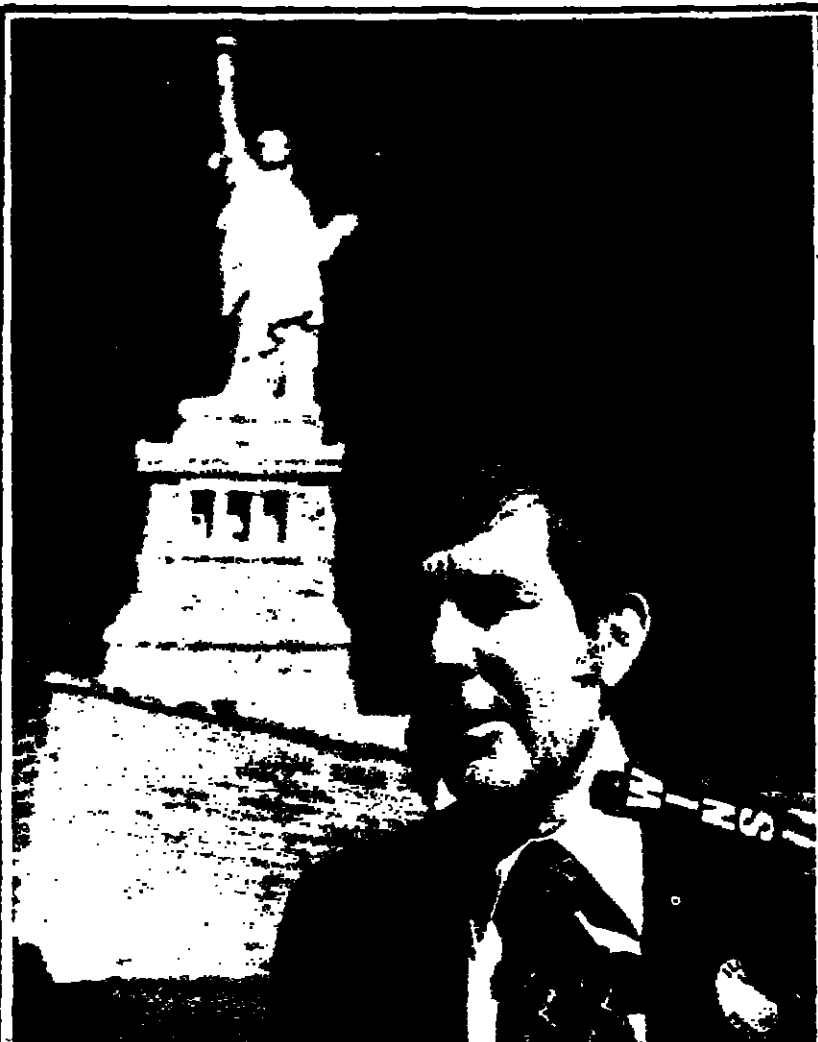
According to the sources, if Italian-style curbs became the general practice, it could mean the end of a quarter century's free trade in money and goods, seen by the banking fraternity as the underlying reason for the rise in prosperity experienced by the industrial nations.

It was probable, therefore, that the governors would merely attempt to work out technical means for stabilising the currency markets in the medium term.

This would no doubt also remind governments of the rules of good monetary management.

The bank chiefs were expected to discuss the international monetary fund sale of gold on June 2, the current value being estimated at \$100 million.

The sources said this could be easily absorbed by the central banks of such countries as Switzerland, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and possibly Italy. These were generally expected to purchase some of the bullion.



IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE. — Representative Morris Udall of Arizona is interviewed by newsmen at the Statue of Liberty in New York harbour. The Congressman was in the city recently campaigning for the 1976 Democratic Party Presidential nomination.

## IMF to raise \$1b for poor nations through gold auction

WASHINGTON, May 6, (R). — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) will auction 12.5 million ounces of gold over the next two years to raise money for the world's poorest nations.

IMF managing director Johannes Witteveen told a press conference here there were plans to auction a further 12.5 million ounces at the end of the two years.

Mr Witteveen said a first 780,000 ounces would be auctioned on June 2. Bids must be for no less than 2,000 ounces and must be reasonably related to the going market price, currently around 127 dollars an ounce.

### Waldheim asks U.N. for aid to Mozambique

UNITED NATIONS, New York, May 7 (AFP) — UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim will today call on the U.N. Economic and Social Council to consider aid to Mozambique in the wake of its decision to close its border with Rhodesia.

Mozambique's trade deficit would increase by \$16 million, the report estimated.

The cost of establishing new telecommunications circuits providing electricity, building a new airport to replace the loss of Salisbury airport, constructing new railways and housing for Mozambique workers who may be expelled from Rhodesia were estimated at a further \$31 million dollars.

## OPEC finance ministers meet in Paris

KUWAIT, May 7 (AFP) — Finance ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will meet in Paris on Monday to discuss support for developing countries, informed source said here today.

The sources who said Kuwait's finance minister Abdel Rahman Al Atiki had already left for the French capital, added that they would mainly discuss a report from the OPEC committee on setting up a fund for helping the de-

veloping nations.

Last January at a Paris meeting OPEC decided in principle that the fund should start off with \$ 850 million.

Filler: In October 1972, Frank Jones of Lowestoft, Suffolk, ended a 68-year-long search by locating his missing brother Arthur Jones.

## Economic Viewpoint

By Dr. Haitham Hur

### New oil and cement prices — Are they inflationary?

The Jordanian government recently announced an increase in the prices of two strategic commodities, cement and oil. The timing of the price rise may not be desirable to Jordanians as the economy has been hit by an inflationary trend affecting almost all consumer items.

To discuss the effect and consequences of this price rise, I need to look at each commodity separately as the economic circumstances and process of production of each differs from the other.

The successive increases of crude oil prices which were announced by OPEC are seen as measures to protect the revenues of oil exporting countries from the erosion of western inflation and to maintain fair prices for this scarce and fast diminishing energy source. However, this price rise does not discriminate between the rich and developing countries, in the sense that the new crude oil prices were imposed on all importing countries.

The Jordanian government was purchasing oil at \$1.95 a barrel until 1970. Since October 1970, the price increased successively until it became \$12 a barrel at the present time. The Jordanian government is subsidising many consumer items such as wheat, sugar and oil, at reasonable and stable prices. The government was spending about \$75 million annually to cover the difference between the old and new crude oil price which is estimated at about \$10 a barrel. As current consumption is estimated at about seven million barrels annually, the total subsidy will amount to \$70 million. However, the government felt the need to review its oil subsidy policy and decided that the consumer must ultimately share part of the oil

price rise, estimated at about JDS while the government takes care of 7% of the total difference, about JD15 million.

The government's efforts to develop areas are appreciated and encourage shifting resources from one sector to another is well understood. However, the question that remains to be answered is, at what will this rural development be accorded? The impact of the oil price increase shifted directly and completely to the mate consumers and will further accentuate the inflationary trend.

Cement price increases came at a time of high demand for houses and apartments. The announcement of the cement price rise was not expected despite shortages in the black market this common. The government had recently announced that it had no intention of increasing prices.

In the free competitive market, I expect a rise in price as demand for cement increases continuously. But the case of Jordan Cement Company is different. It is a monopoly operating in a monopoly situation under government supervision. I believe the increase announcement was not a surprise if Jordanian policy makers intend inflation and the high rise in the housing and rents.

Every Jordanian feels the housing shortage problems and all Jordanians need for a larger supply of housing apartment buildings. I wish the government would continue and expand its effort to provide housing for young Jordanians. High incentive to stay and work in Jordan instead of seeking employment abroad.

## Outlook less salty for Bahrain's water

For 2000 years Bahrain has benefited from her natural freshwater resources—but in recent years these have tended to become more saline. So the government has taken steps to ensure that modern technology helps to maintain the "green and fertile" environment unusual in the Middle East.

The key to the current problem is the construction of a seawater desalination plant in conjunction with a power station on the island of Sitra. The total cost of the works, including improvement of the water supply network, is estimated at some £35 million.

When the plant starts operating in the spring of 1976 it will have a capacity to process five million gallons (23 million litres) daily. Plans are now being made to expand this at an early date to provide for an ultimate capacity of 20 million gallons (91 million litres) daily. Consideration is also being given to the establishment of another major plant elsewhere in the island.

For the present scheme the government retained the services of three firms of British specialist consultants.

One of the first tasks was to assess existing and likely future water demands and to work out the best ways of blending the desalinated water with the existing ground water supplies. By this means the desalination plant output can be "stretched" and a water of acceptable salinity produced at a much lower cost.

Desalination is a field in which British engineers have a special

expertise and many of the world's major desalination plant installations have used experience obtained from Britain's manufacturers. This is particularly true of plants in the Middle East.

Basically, desalination of seawater is achieved by copying the natural process of evaporation which yields fresh water as rain. The manmade process needs power to make it work. So the economics of desalination are particularly favourable where electricity demands necessitate installation of more generating plant since the distillation plant can use waste heat from the generation process.

Combined water/power station can cut the costs of both power and water by some 25 per cent compared with using separate units for both.

What are styled "flash" distillation plants heat incoming seawater by using the power station's waste steam and then pass it through several distillation chambers in which pressure is reduced step by step. In each one, some

water evaporates from the surface, leaving its salt behind in a process termed "flashing".

As temperature drop reduction keeps evaporating. This makes use of the physics—that the point temperature of a lowered as the atmosphere falls. Put simply, water "boils" at a lower temperature on a mountain top than in the plains.

After water vapour distillation chambers it is condensed by being cooled and then collected in tanks. In Bahrain this will be by blending the distillate with the brackish natural water.

Mixing will take place in large storage tanks and the maximum volume of acceptable quality. This will be pumped up to water feed the existing main. In some parts of the island demand will make some of these mains



Equipment for desalination plants similar to the one being built in Bahrain has been supplied by the British firm Weir. The picture shows the flash evaporator at the Weir group's desalination research station at Troilshire, Scotland.

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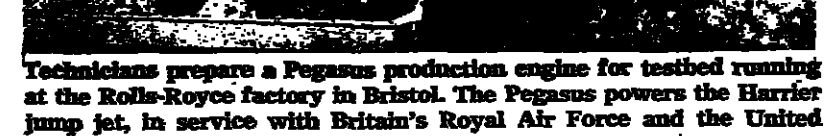
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3.30 Paris  
9.00 Abu-Dhabi, Dubai

19.40 Beirut (MEA)  
20.50 London (BA)

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19.00 News Bulletin  
19.10 Songs  
19.30 Sign off

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## American TV crew held for 6 hours by Israeli troops

TEL AVIV, May 6 (R) — An American television network crew were detained for six hours Thursday by Israeli soldiers and police in the occupied West Bank, NBC bureau chief Avram Zaritsky told Reuters here tonight.

Mr. Zaritsky said he and his two-man team had gone to Jenin

## Spain announces proposals for new parliament

MADRID, May 7 (R) — The Spanish Government tonight announced proposals for setting up a two-house parliament in which the entire lower house and most of the senate would be directly elected.

The government also recognised for the first time the right of workers to form labour unions outside the state-run syndicates.

The proposals, completed at a cabinet meeting, were more liberal than a general reform plan announced last week by Prime Minister Carlos Arias Navarro.

They were contained in two bills which would reform the present single-chamber parliamentary system and the basic "organic law" of the state.

In the proposed two-house parliament, the congress would have 300 members and the senate 285.

Of the senators, 200 would be directly elected from candidates nominated by municipal and provincial councils and labour unions.

## Call for S. Africa to go nuclear

CAPE TOWN, May 7 (AFP) — South Africa should be made into a "mini-super power" with a nuclear capability, United Party opposition M.P. Bill Deacon said here today.

Mr. Deacon added, however, that his suggestion should not convey the impression that South Africa was intent on the conquest of the rest of the continent.

Nuclear capability should be developed only as a deterrent to aggressors and as a guarantee for peaceful and prosperous coexistence in Africa, he said.

He based his argument on the fact that South Africa had large deposits of uranium and that its scientists had developed a cheap method of manufacturing enriched uranium, a primary requisite for making nuclear weapons.

Observers here noted however, that South African officials have consistently denied so far that Prime Minister John Vorster's government had any intention of acquiring a nuclear capability for military purposes.

## Israel suffers 3% drop in real wages

JERUSALEM, May 7 (R) — Average real wages in Israel dropped by three per cent last year, the Central Bureau Statistics announced yesterday.

The bureau said that inflation had brought about the drop despite an average increase of nominal wages by 36 per cent to an average wage of 2,377 Israel pounds (£170) a month.

## LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market was mixed to easier Friday with industrials losing early scattered gains in small interest, dealers said. At 15:00 the F.T. Index was down 2.3 at 415.5.

Government stocks remained firm after forecasts of an inflation rate of 4 per cent with some buying interest seen, dealers added. Long dated loans were higher by up to 1/2 point while shorts gained around 1/4 to 1/2 point.

Oils were mixed while banks were steady to higher in places. Mining shares gained with the gold bullion price while Australians were mostly easier where changed.

Among shares to gain slightly were Glaxo, Fisons, GEC and Beecham, dealers said. P and O rose 3p on further consideration of their results, dealers added.

Perak River Hydro was sharply higher after news of the offer from the Malaysian government. The share price closed at 45up (373). In oils, Burmah lost 2p after news of its abandonment of a dry well. Shell was also a few pence easier while BP gained 2p.

GKN was off the bottom with a 9p fall after it denied press comment over possible obstacles to the bid for a Sachs stake.

Small losses were seen in Bowater, Reed, EMI, Thorn and Marks.

## WALL STREET REPORT

The stock market mounted a modest rally Friday and the industrial average gained close to seven points. Trading, however, was still moderate on the New York Stock Exchange as many investors are remaining on the sidelines. Analysts did not draw any conclusions from an announcement by the Labour Department that the unemployment rate had held steady (at 7.5 per cent) in April. Some short-term interest rate declines were perhaps at the origin of the buying which developed during the last hour. Gainers led losers at the final bell by a 937 to 483 margin, with 438 issues unchanged.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 996.22, a gain of 6.69 points; transp at 214.14, a gain of 1.73; utilities at 87.87, a gain of 0.22. 17,810,000 shares changed hands, of which 3,940,000 during the last hour.

to film possible demonstrations there, and were taken in by the security men who then held them for six hours in the local police station.

"No explanation was given when they released us," Mr. Zaritsky said.

They had been asked if Arab sources had informed them in advance of any planned demonstrations. They were investigating alleged incidents in which Arabs had offered to stage demonstrations for foreign television crews for pay, as Israeli sources have claimed.

Today's incidents with the NBC crew had, however, nothing to do with anything like that, the sources said. They refused to say why the team had been held.

Mr. Zaritsky said he was going to the Israeli Ministry of Defence tomorrow to lodge a formal complaint.

Mr. Zaritsky added that they had been fingerprinted.

"One military government official said they would charge us formally with refusing to leave a closed area when ordered to do so," Mr. Zaritsky said.

They were asked to write out formal statements about the incident, but refused to put anything in writing without consulting a lawyer, the NBC Tel Aviv bureau chief said.

## European communist meet postponed

MOSCOW, May 7 (AFP) — The conference of European communist parties which was to have been held in east Berlin next month, has again been postponed to an yet unfixed date, it was learned here today.

Tass News Agency, in a despatch from East Berlin, reported that a new session of the conference drafting committee was scheduled for early in June.

The three-day meeting of the drafting committee which ended in East Berlin yesterday had been marked by "a frank and cordial atmosphere, as it should be among communists," Tass said.

This week's drafting committee meeting had been intended to be the last before the convening of the conference.

(In East Berlin, informed observers expressed the belief that the conference would be held soon even though a final agreement on its theme had not yet been reached and the participation of all communist parties concerned was not certain.)

## Kissinger concludes visit

[Continued from page 1] Minister Jean Sauvagnargues. Mr. Sauvagnargues, in a major policy speech to the National Assembly yesterday, said communist participation in French government would endanger detente because the Communist Party opposed the balance of power on which detente rested.

Mr. Kissinger, who recently issued warnings about the future of the Atlantic Alliance if communists enter Western European governments, refused to comment



TEARING DOWN THE OLD. — East German border guards near checkpoint Charlie, tear down the wall dividing the city of Berlin Friday behind a fence (far right), to build a higher one made of reinforced concrete. At right is part of the old wall. (AP wirephoto).

## Ford vetoes \$4b foreign military aid bill

WASHINGTON, May 7 (R) — President Ford today vetoed a \$4,000 million foreign military aid bill because of what he called unprecedented restrictions on his right to conduct foreign policy.

The president said in a veto message to Congress that he objected to provisions placing limits on arms sales, removing restrictions on trade with North and South Vietnam, and setting standards for human rights in foreign countries.

The bill was an authorization

measure and did not contain actual funds for financing foreign aid.

Included in it was a \$3,000 million Middle East package, consisting mostly of military aid for Israel.

The bill would have set an annual ceiling of \$9,000 million on the total of government sales and commercial exports of military equipment and services.

It would also have suspended for 80 days a trade embargo against North Vietnam, in the hope

that Hanoi would reciprocate with some information on American soldiers still missing from the Vietnam war.

The President said this would remove a vital bargaining instrument for settling issues with North Vietnam.

Another provision the President objected to was a requirement that aid recipients should follow human rights standards set by Congress as a condition for continued American aid.

Mr. Ford said the bill ignored many complex factors which should govern U.S. relations with other countries.

He said the bill generally would seriously inhibit his right and ability to carry out a consistent foreign policy and contained unprecedented restrictions on presidential authority.

The White House announced earlier this week that Mr. Ford intended to veto the bill.

It seemed unlikely that Congress could muster the two-thirds majority needed to override the veto, as the House of Representatives only approved the bill by 215 to 185.

## Refugees push presidential news aside in Portugal

LISBON, May 7 (R) — Thousands of angry refugees from Portugal's former African colonies today converged on the Sao Bento Government Palace here to protest at the way riot police broke up their attempted take-over of Lisbon's luxury hotels.

Traffic was brought to a standstill in the maze of narrow streets around the palace.

Riot police cordoned off the building to prevent a repetition of last November's siege when Prime Minister Jose Pinheiro de Azevedo was trapped for 36 hours by leftist building workers.

Two people were injured and

plate glass facades were shattered by flying stones when police moved into some of the capital's smartest hotels last night and turned out hundreds of refugees camping in the foyers.

The refugees had staged the occupation to force reversal of a government decision cancelling free meal tickets for some 50,000 of the former settlers.

The refugees also opposed a planned investigation of suspected frauds in the handling of funds for their upkeep and a projected census designed to establish exactly how many of them had come from Africa.

The refugees today captured front-page headlines in the Portuguese press at a time when most people had begun to forget about their situation.

The flare-up with the refugees pushed political manoeuvring over the June presidential choice into the background.

General Antonio Ramalho Eanes, the 41-year-old army Chief of Staff, however, today appeared more certain than ever to throw himself into the contest.

## Israelis split on settlement

[Continued from page 1] PLO supporters in West Bank elections.

The correspondents said some U.S. officials felt Israel — which has always refused to deal with the PLO — should be pressed to recognise it as the Palestinian spokesman.

West Bank towns were today reported relatively calm, but underlying tensions remained.

The Mayor of Nablus, Mr. Basam Shaqa'a, was pressing Defence Minister Shimon Peres, who is responsible for administering the area, to reopen all schools shut after recent clashes between students and Israeli soldiers.

The Israelis said they would allow one of three schools in the town to reopen and would have three of 11 iron gates removed from entrances to the ancient downtown Casbah district, placed under curfew for five days recently. The curfew was lifted yesterday.

Arab sources said there were reports of considerable firing by Israeli troops inside the Casbah during the days it was sealed off and reporters barred.

One father of 12 told an Arab newspaper the troops had shot dead his six sheep, his sole means of livelihood and he demanded compensation.

## Britain's local government elections disappoint Labour

LONDON, May 7 (R) — Prospects of a snap summer election in Britain receded today after a 15 per cent swing to the opposition Conservatives in local government elections in England and Wales.

The outcome was a big disappointment to the ruling Labour Party, which believes it is now winning the battle against inflation and had expected to reap electoral reward for its new pay pact with the trade unions announced earlier this week.

Instead, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher's Conservatives triumphed by gaining more than 1,500 council seats in yesterday's polling, while Labour lost more than 1,200. Altogether 16,000 seats were contested.

Conservatives turned out strongly to show their disenchantment with Labour's socialist policies and its progress against inflation. The ruling national party also suffered from recent high spending by local authorities which has sharply pushed up rates (taxes) for homeowners.

Though council elections are rarely a reliable guide to a general election, the swing was enough to silence talk of a snap poll being called by the prime minister Mr. Callaghan to consolidate his hold on power.

Judging by the council results, there would be an obvious risk of his losing if an election were held this year, political observers said.

## Cyprus says Turkey violates human rights

NICOSIA, May 7 (R) — The Cypriot government has charged Turkey with "massive violations of human rights in Cyprus" in a complaint to U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. The Cyprus News Agency said today.

A letter sent by the Cypriot Charge d'Affaires in New York, Mr. Andreas Jacovides, said 200,000 Greek Cypriots had been uprooted from their homes as a result of the 1974 Turkish invasion of the island.

He accused Turkish occupation forces of "countless crimes" including murder, rape, looting, illegal detentions, forced expatriation and the separation of families.

Mr. Jacovides said Turkish settlers were being imported to take over the homes of expelled Greek Cypriots.

An election does not held until October 1977. Callaghan is expected to have the chance at the earliest time.

And he could still into an early poll by precarious position in of Commons, where it norty of three again bined strength of all o

## Bhutto to visit Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, May 7 — ined relations betwe and Afghanistan took turn for the better, is surprise announcement Minister Zulfikar Ali visit Kabul.

The two-sentence ment said Afghanistan Mohammad Daoud Mr. Bhutto to pay ar sit, and Mr. Bhutto invitation with pleasu no dates for the visit, ed sources said it was ke place next month.

Mr. Bhutto is sche to North Korea and ween May 21 and 30. The Kabul visit will by Mr. Bhutto since F oud came to power in a military coup which Zahir Shah.

## Kaunda: Ar struggle is o

LUSAKA, May 7 (A intensified armed str liberation of Southe now on and Zambia ready for "outright defenceless people, s der, espionage and warfare." President nda warned the nati Addressing a crowd 200 kms north of he nda said "we are on an intensified armed there will be no let jority rule is achieve

He added: "We that nothing of em tions can break our er to final victory i (Rhodesia), Namibia and to the total apartheid in South /

He warn of "the enemy" w break our morale." is supreme command mbian armed forces.

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